

Interstate 81 PPTA Advisory Panel
Oct. 2, 2003

Meeting Minutes

Auditorium – VDOT District Office – Salem, Virginia

- I. The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m., welcomed the panel members. The following Advisory Panel members were present: Mr. Pierce Homer, Chairman, Mr. Fred Altizer, Mr. Jim Bowie, Ms. Dee Bowles, Mr. George Conner, Ms. Helen Dragas, Dr. Jonathan Gifford, Mr. Malcolm Kerley, Ms. Barbara Reese and Dr. Philip Stone.
- II. The Chairman provided an overview of the PPTA process. Advisory Panel is the third step in a four-step process. However, environmental review process (EIS) is the ultimate decision-making process, and it will take several years to complete.
- III. VDOT Chief Engineer provided an overview of traditional and negotiated procurement. (Handout below)
- IV. VDOT I-81 Program Manager provided an overview of the I-81 environmental review process. More details will be provided as contracts and work plans are finalized.
- V. The Fluor team provided an overview of their proposal and responded to questions. Several will require written responses and all these will be posted on the Web site. (Link to Fluor's presentation below)
- VI. The Panel broke for lunch at 12:20 p.m. No official business was conducted at lunch. The Panel reconvened at 1:00 p.m.
- VII. The STAR team provided an overview of their proposal and responded to questions. Several will require written responses and these will be posted on the web site. (Link to STAR's presentation below)
- VIII. The Chairman described the process for receiving written comments from affected local jurisdictions. No oral testimony will be heard. In addition, the Chairman will provide any written comments from any group or any individual to the Panel.
- IX. Panel members expressed various concerns. Dr. Stone and Mr. Bowie emphasized consideration of aesthetic and rail alternatives. Ms. Dragas emphasized the need to assess long-term needs.
- X. The Panel adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

AS APPROVED NOVEMBER 14, 2003

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AS APPROVED NOVEMBER 14, 2003

**Interstate 81 PPTA Advisory Panel
Nov. 14, 2003**

**Meeting Minutes
Auditorium – VDOT District Office – Bristol, Virginia**

- I. The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed panel members. The following Advisory Panel members were present: Mr. Pierce Homer, Chairman, Mr. Fred Altizer, Ms. Dee Bowles, Mr. George Conner, Ms. Helen Dragas, Dr. Jonathan Gifford, Mr. Malcolm Kerley, Ms. Barbara Reese, and Dr. Philip Stone. The Chairman introduced Mr. Dana Martin, who will succeed Mr. Onzlee Ware on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Advisory Panel.
- II. The Chairman reviewed public participation guidelines with the Panel, and advised the panel that a public meeting or meetings would be scheduled to solicit public comment. (These guidelines are available on the VDOT website.)
- III. The Chairman reviewed additional materials provided by the Fluor and STAR teams in response to requests from the panel. (These additional materials are available on the VDOT website.)
- IV. The Panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Financial Officer evaluating the STAR financial proposal. (This presentation, along with a supporting report by the Commonwealth's financial advisors is available on the VDOT website.)
- V. The Panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Financial Officer evaluating the Fluor financial proposal. (This presentation, along with a supporting report by the Commonwealth's financial advisors is available on the VDOT website.)
- VI. The Panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Engineer and his staff regarding written comments from local governments and other interested parties. (These summary remarks are available on the VDOT website. The local government and other comments have been compiled by VDOT and are available at residencies throughout the I-81 corridor or on request.)
- VII. The panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief of Planning and Environment regarding the I-81 Environmental Impact Study (EIS). (The timeline and major issues of this "tiered" study are available on the VDOT website.)
- VIII. During discussion among panel members, a variety of topics were discussed, including:
 - Potential for rail diversions
 - Proposed non-compete clauses
 - Cost of maintenance and operations
 - Long term traffic projections and needs
 - Debt impacts

- Toll policies
- Financial impacts of project on rest of state
- Timing of PPTA versus EIS processes

IX. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2003
I-81 PPTA Advisory Panel
Auditorium -- VDOT District office -- Staunton, Virginia

- I. The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:20 a.m. and welcomed panel members. The following Advisory Panel members were present: Homer, Gifford, Altizer, Dragas, Kerley, Stone, Reese, Martin, Conner, Bowie.
- II. The panel approved minutes from the November 14 meeting.
- III. The panel received brief comments from the Fluor and STAR teams on the financial evaluation of the I-81 proposals. (Copies of the written comments provided by the Fluor and STAR teams are available on the VDOT web site.)
- IV. The advisory panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Engineer evaluating the Fluor proposal. (Copies of this evaluation are available on the VDOT web site.)
- V. The panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Engineer evaluating the STAR proposal. (Copies of this evaluation are available on the VDOT web site.)
- VI. The advisory panel received a briefing from the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation on the I-81 rail diversion study. (This presentation, along with a supporting report by the Commonwealth's consultant, is available on the VDOT web site.)
- VII. The panel received a briefing from the VDOT Chief Engineer and staff regarding written comments from local government and other interested parties. (These summary remarks are available on the VDOT web site. The local government and other comments are available on request and at any VDOT District Office in the I-81 corridor.)
- VIII. The advisory panel discussed a variety of topics, including:
 - The timing of advisory panel recommendations.
 - Rail and road alternatives.
 - The high percentage of truck traffic on I-81.
 - The long-term needs of the I-81 corridor.
 - Life cycle costing evaluation of the proposals.
- IX. The advisory panel adjourned its meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2004
I-81 PPTA Advisory Panel
Auditorium—VDOT District Office—Richmond, Virginia

- I. The Chairman opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed panel members. The following Panel members were present: Homer, Gifford, Bowles, Dragas, Stone, Martin, Bowie, Reese, Altizer, and Conner. The Chair also welcomed members of the General Assembly in attendance and invited each of the three District Administrators to introduce themselves over the videoconference from Bristol, Salem, and Staunton.
- II. The Panel received testimony from six members of the General Assembly.
- III. Approximately 250 citizens attended the public meetings at the four locations. The Panel heard from approximately seventy-four citizens at the four locations. All citizens were able to hear what citizens in other parts of the state heard.
- IV. The panel adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

**I-81 PPTA Advisory Panel
February 13, 2004
Meeting Minutes
Auditorium—VDOT District Office—Salem, Virginia**

- I. The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:18 AM and welcomed panel members. All members were present and approved minutes from the January meeting.
- II. The Chairman reviewed the 2002 solicitation, its selection criteria, and the subsequent panel evaluation process, including
 - Qualifications and Experience of Proposers
 - Project Characteristics
 - Project Financing
 - Public Support
 - Project Compatibility
 - October 2 Fluor and STAR Presentations
 - November 14 Financial Evaluations, Overview of Independent Environmental Review, and Summary of Local Government Comments
 - December 18 Traffic and Engineering Evaluations, Rail Diversion Study, and Distribution of Public Comments
 - January 15 Public Meeting to Accept Additional Public Comment
- III. The Chief Engineer reviewed the FHWA response to VDOT tolling questions. FHWA has determined that a "truck-only" toll is a possibility under the pilot interstate tolling program. FHWA also has determined that interstate tolls may not be directed to rail improvements in the same corridor, or outside the corridor. Both letters are available on the website.
- IV. The Chief Engineer reviewed additional materials from Fluor and STAR since the last meeting.
- V. DRPT Assistant Director reviewed an additional toll diversion analysis prepared for the advisory panel. The study is available on the website.
- VI. The panel posed questions to and received final comments from the two proposers.
- VII. The panel broke for lunch at approximately 12:25 PM. No business was discussed at lunch, and the panel resumed its work at 1:15 PM.

VIII. The panel began a discussion of major issues:

- **Timing of Advisory Panel Recommendation**
 - a. Relation to Environmental Review
 - b. Relation to U.S. Congress Process
 - c. Relation to Virginia General Assembly Process
 - d. Comparison to Other CTB Processes
- **Transportation Needs in the I-81 Corridor**
 - a. Current
 - b. Long Term
 - c. Safety
 - d. Vehicle Mix
 - e. Topography
- **Role of Freight Rail in the I-81 Corridor**
 - a. Virginia Perspective
 - b. National Perspective
- **The Need for Tolls in the I-81 Corridor**
 - a. Cars
 - b. Trucks
 - c. Equity
 - d. Diversions
 - e. Community and Economic Impacts
- **Economic Development**
 - a. Industry
 - b. Shippers
 - c. Employers
 - d. Employees
- **Environment**
 - a. Impervious Surfaces
 - b. Historic/Cultural Resources
 - c. Air Quality
 - d. Viewshed
 - e. Land Use
- **Cost**
 - a. Construction Estimates
 - b. Maintenance Issues
 - c. Financing
- **Implementation and Phasing Issues**

- IX. The findings and recommendations of the panel will be summarized in a letter from the Chair to the Commissioner and Secretary. The panel recommended that the Commissioner enter into negotiations with STAR Solutions for a Comprehensive Agreement to improve I-81 consistent with the STAR proposal. The recommendation includes a number of conditions that will be detailed in the final letter.
- X. The Chair thanked the panel for its service, and the panel adjourned at 4:14 PM.